

May 5, 2004

## Dear Foster Parent:

As we celebrate May as Foster Family Month, we want to express our appreciation and admiration for the difference that you make every day. The decision to share your home and life with children who need your care and support is an act of selflessness and generosity that has a lasting impact – for the children, their families and Wisconsin's communities.

As adoptive parents ourselves, we understand the joys of raising children. We also know that parenting, and especially foster parenting, can be very challenging. So many children who enter foster care have had difficult experiences. We recognize that foster families need more support, and we are dedicated to making more opportunities available to assist you in caring for foster children.

You should know that this week we announced our *KidsFirst* Plan, which includes a proposal to raise reimbursement rates for foster parents and other steps to strengthen the foster care system. You can read the plan online at <a href="https://www.wisgov.state.wi.us">www.wisgov.state.wi.us</a>.

We value and honor the commitment you have made to foster children. Thank you for the encouragement and hope you provide to children and families in need.

Sincerely,

Jim Doyle Governor Jessica Doyle First Lady